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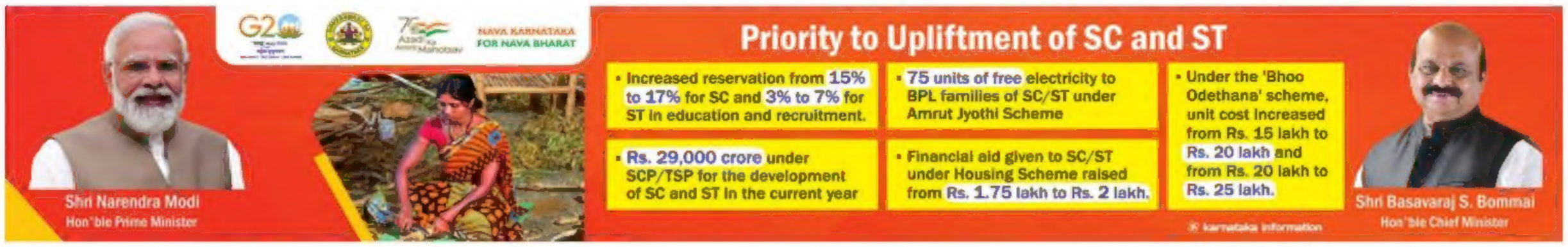
INDIA'S RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS HIT RECORD HIGH IN FEBRUARY

India imported 1.62 million barrels of Russian crude per day last month, accounting for over 35% of oil imports. India imported more oil from Russia last month than Iraq and Saudi Arabia put together. Prior to the start of the Ukraine war, Russia's share in India's crude oil import was just 0.2% as per energy cargo tracker Vortexa. With the West imposing embargoes on Russian oil to punish Moscow for its war, India began snapping up Russian cargo at a steep discount.


NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT
Priority to Upliftment of SC and ST
• Increased reservation from 15% to 17% for SC and 3% to 7% for ST in education and recruitment.
• 75 units of free electricity to BPL families of SC/ST under Amrut Jyothi Scheme
• Under the 'Bhoo Odethana' scheme, unit cost increased from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh and from Rs. 20 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh.
• Rs. 29,000 crore under SCP/TSP for the development of SC and ST in the current year
• Financial aid given to SC/ST under Housing Scheme raised from Rs. 1.75 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh.
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister
karnataka information

PFI hit squad head held in Nettaru case

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested an absconding accused in the sensational Praveen Nettaru murder case. According to informed sources, the NIA arrested accused absconder Thufail MH - the District Head of Popular Front of India (PFI) 'Service Team' (Hit Team) and former PFI district secretary, Kodagu - from his house in Amruthahalli in Bengaluru on March 4 late evening after setting up a decoy.

Thufail MH

The NIA had earlier announced a reward of Rs 5 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Thufail. He was among the 20 accused chargesheeted in the Nettaru case by the NIA in January. Thufail, along with Musthafa Paichar, Masud KA, Kodaje Mohammed Sherif, Abubakkar Siddik and Ummar Farook MR, was absconding.

The accused are members of the banned PFI and had planned and executed Nettaru's murder to "to create terror, communal hatred and unrest in society and to further its agenda of establishing Islamic rule by 2047", the NIA had stated in the chargesheet.

According to the NIA, Thufail had "played a significant role in PFI's larger conspiracy to murder leaders of a particular community. He had also provided shelter and safe harbour to the three assailants in the Nettaru case at Ashiyana Residency of Koppa village, Mysuru district, who had recced and then hacked Nettaru to death."

Thufail was accused in the Prashanth Poojari murder case registered in Kushalnagar Rural police station and also a case of attempt to murder VHP leader Ganesh. P5

UN seals historic deal to save oceans

Agreement reached after years of negotiations; aims to protect 30% of oceans by 2030

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

WRAPPING up almost two decades of negotiations, some 200 UN member countries, including India, on Sunday reached a historic agreement to protect the world's oceans and the species that dwell in them from exploitation. It is the first international agreement to protect the high seas, which cover 60% of the earth's surface, regulate the climate and generate half of the oxygen we breathe.

The high seas begin at the border of countries' exclusive economic zones and fall under the jurisdiction of no country.

The treaty aims to make 30% of the high seas "protected waters" by 2030 and help establish a conference of parties for further negotiations. Protected waters mean there will be restrictions on fishing, what routes ships can use, and exploration activities like deep-sea mining. The talks that began in 2007 have been hampered by disagreements even till the last minute. A major stumbling block was how to share marine genetic resources available vastly in the deep sea, like sponges, krill, corals, seaweeds, bacteria and minerals.

Industrialised nations target these resources for use in medicines, cosmetics, making electric vehicle batteries, and other industrial purposes. The treaty will give all countries equitable rights over fishing, shipping and research.

"The first UN convention on the law of the sea was signed some 40 years back, which didn't address the emerging scenario where every country is eyeing for resources to tackle climate change," said G A Ramadass, director, National Institute of Ocean Technology.

'I'D RATHER WORK IN INDIAN FILM...'

Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor, who was in the city, chats with Bengaluru City Express about Indian movies going global, genres he finds hard to do, and being a new parent

BENGALURU CITY EXPRESS: P1

Oppn writes to PM, slams Sisodia arrest

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

NINE Opposition leaders on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagging "the blatant misuse" of central investigating agencies against political opponents of the ruling dispensation. In the joint letter written by major opposition parties, barring the Congress, the leaders claimed the recent arrest of former Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia in the excise policy case suggested India's 'transition from a democracy to an autocracy'.

Apart from the Congress, the DMK, JD(U) and JDS leaders were also missing from the list of signatories. This is notable because the Congress has been vocal about the purported misuse of central agencies.

The letter was signed by Arvind Kejriwal, Bhagwant Mann (AAP), K Chandrashekar Rao (BRS), Farooq Abdullah (NC), Mamata Banerjee (Trinamool), Akhilesh Yadav (SP), Sharad Pawar (NCP), Tejashwi Yadav (RJD) and Uddhav Thackeray (Sena).

India shining example of digi infra, says Gita

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

GITA Gopinath, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on Sunday said India is a shining example in digital public infrastructure.

During her visit to the city to take part in the graduation day celebration of JSS Women's College, she said India, since assuming the presidency of G-20, has been doing an incredible job of conducting meetings of the grouping.

"The country is a good example in digital public infrastructure and good policies have contributed to this. There is a need to bring in reforms in the field of labour market and labour force participation," she said.

"India will play a pivotal role in the G-20 meetings with discussions on cybersecurity, cyber risk, crypto, food security and energy security," she said.

The country's growth at 6.1% is good and it is because of favourable policies, she said.

EXPRESS READ

Navy's BrahMos test successful

New Delhi: The Indian Navy on Sunday successfully test-fired in the Arabian Sea the ship-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic missile. The missile that was tested had the indigenous "seeker and booster", officials said.

Boy dies in blast at illegal gas filling unit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AN 11-year-old boy died in an explosion at an illegal gas refilling unit at a house in Guddadahalli, near Hebbal, on Sunday morning.

The deceased, Mahesh, was a Class 4 student at a government school. His parents, Mallappa and Saraswati from Yadgir, are daily wagers living in Guddadahalli.

Police said the incident occurred around 11am Sunday, when Mahesh went to a neighbour's house. Residents heard a loud explosion and rushed to the house. They found the boy lying grievously injured, and rushed him to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

"The interiors of the house was damaged. The boy used to visit the house, where a person called Liyakath lived. On Sunday morning too, he went there to play when the incident occurred. No one else was injured as only Mahesh was inside the house, where LPG cylinders and apparatus used to refill gas were found," police said.

"We have taken up a case against landlord Devaraj and tenant Liyakath, who is absconding," Hebbal police added.

Athlete brothers, 95 & 86 yrs old, off to Sydney for masters tourney

PRAJNA G R @ Madikeri

WHILE most people of their vintage would be nursing various aches and suffering from age-related issues, here are two elderly athletes, siblings aged 95 and 86, who have trained themselves hard to take part in their first-ever international meet to be held in Sydney soon.

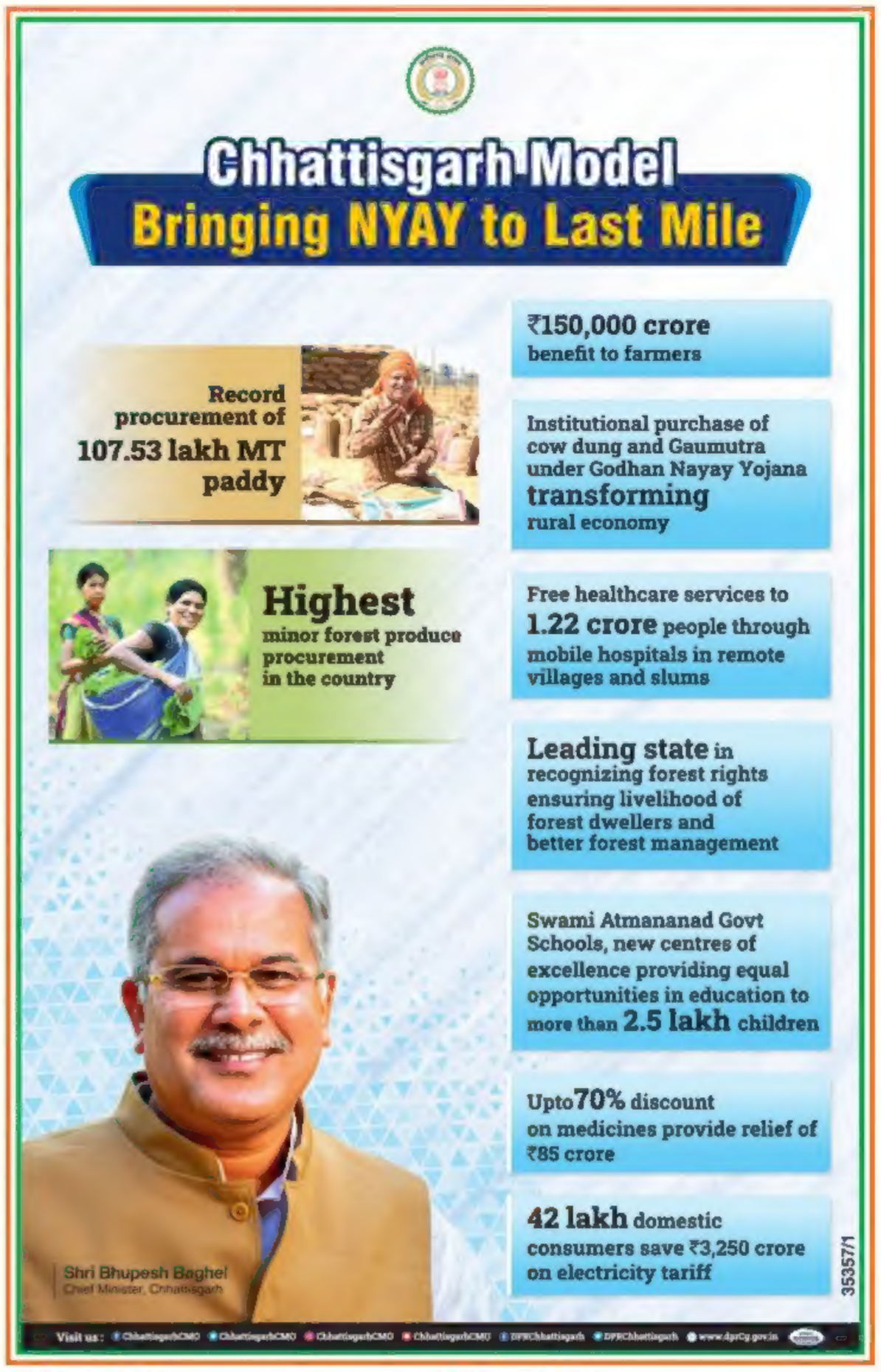
Palekanda Bopaiah (95) and Palekanda Belliappa (86) reside in Kadanuru and Gonikoppal of Kodagu. They have taken part in several Master Games Championships held across the country and won 13 medals so far. However, this is their first international meet.

"The Master Games Championships will be held in Sydney from March 10 to March 15. It has been our long-cherished dream to take part in this tournament and we have been able to do it with the support of our family," said Belliappa. They have shelled out Rs 2.45 lakh for the flight and other expenses for the tournament.

Belliappa said that he wrote to the Kodagu-Mysuru MP, Kodagu DC, Sports Department officials and even the Prime Minister, requesting financial support. "But we did not receive any reply. Though the DC wrote to the Bengaluru office, they denied funds. However, our family came forward and collected funds," he added. P6

Palekanda Bopaiah

Palekanda Belliappa


Chhattisgarh Model
Bringing NYAY to Last Mile
₹150,000 crore benefit to farmers
Record procurement of 107.53 lakh MT paddy
Institutional purchase of cow dung and Gaumutra under Godhan Nayay Yojana transforming rural economy
Highest minor forest produce procurement in the country
Free healthcare services to 1.22 crore people through mobile hospitals in remote villages and slums
Leading state in recognizing forest rights ensuring livelihood of forest dwellers and better forest management
Swami Atmananad Govt Schools, new centres of excellence providing equal opportunities in education to more than 2.5 lakh children
Upto 70% discount on medicines provide relief of ₹85 crore
42 lakh domestic consumers save ₹3,250 crore on electricity tariff
Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh
35357/1
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